



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



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Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

2015 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 6.7 million pounds during 2015. This was unchanged from 2014 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 35 on January 1, 2016, up 3 plants from January 1, 2015.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2015 totaled 7,900 head, down 9 percent from 2014. Total live weight was 8.07 million pounds, down 7 percent from 2014. The average live weight was 1,020 pounds, up 28 pounds from 2014.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter during 2015 totaled 8,600 head, up 21 percent from 2014. Total live weight was 2.36 million pounds, up 27 percent from 2014. The average live weight was 275 pounds, up 12 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – Total red meat production for the United States totaled 48.5 billion pounds in 2015, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 48.4 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 87.8 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 23.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 87.8 million pounds, down 12 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 24.5 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 155.6 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2014.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2015 totaled 28.8 million head, down 5 percent from 2014, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,360 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 54.2 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 26.0 percent, dairy cows 10.3 percent, other cows 7.9 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 452,600 head, 20 percent lower than a year ago with 98.4 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 310 pounds, up 27 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 115.4 million head, 8 percent higher than 2014 with 99.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from last year, at 283 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.22 million head, was down 4 percent from the previous year with 89.9 percent by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2014 at 136 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.3 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 808 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2016 compared with 881 last year. Of these, 641 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2015 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 57 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 613 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for 60 percent of the total. For calves, 3 of the 203 plants accounted for 42 percent of the total and 2 of the 518 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2015 comprised 43 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2015, unchanged from 2014.